



MERYKID

BIOGRAPHY

In 2020, Lebanese-American Indie Music Artist Nick Mery, AKA Merykid, is positioned to take the music industry by storm, having released one of the most timely and meaningful albums of his career to date.

This year, Merykid has re-emerged onto the music scene, having released a new album, titled "Exit Music," in April 2020 and available now on Apple Music and Spotify. With the entire human population across the globe currently struggling to find hope amidst a COVID-19 pandemic, Mery's album, which was written in 2019, coincidentally and suddenly became quite relevant. In early 2019, Mery became very ill due to an autoimmune disorder and was forced to take several medications and self-quarantine away from friends and family. The side effects of the drugs often induced heavy anxiety and panic and the only way Mery was able to cope with these adverse effects was to pick up his guitar and begin writing new music. "Exit Music" was initially created as a means to come to terms with the possible end of his music career, the end of his health, and the end of the world he lived in. When writing music about being sick and isolated, Mery had no idea that just one year later the entire world would fall under the same isolating conditions during the COVID-19 era. His lyrics on songs from the album, such as "2019AD" or "Mr. Sun" could not be more poignant or fitting given the current world climate: "It would seem that staying alive is a 2019 American Dream."



As a proud self-produced and completely independent artist, Merykid's unique sound carries fresh and futuristic electronic notes blended with underlying indie/alternative beats and hip-hop influences. Merykid has also toured heavily throughout Texas and across the United States, having performed with various jam bands and folk groups, as well as opening for mainstream artists such as Blue October, Deftones, Doja Cat, and Logic. In 2009, Merykid received critical acclaim for his indie-folk song, "Clean Freak! Ghost!" which won several digital awards. Additional credits for Merykid include his EP "Gentleman Streets" (2013), his album "The Raccoon" (2010), and the "Boy & the Bird" EP (2009).

Born and raised in a Lebanese community in San Antonio, TX, Mery discovered his passion for music at a young age, singing Arabic hymns with his church choir. As he grew older, he began to teach himself different instruments which later led him to learn how to produce his own music. Without formal musical training, Mery found that he was unable to accurately communicate his sound and vision with other producers, and soon discovered that self-producing was able to provide him with the freedom of musical self-expression he had been searching for. Inspired by artists like J Dilla, Kanye West and Trent Reznor, Mery began to write soundtracks for indie short films and soon sold several original songs to CBS. Mery was also nominated for several awards at various film festivals for his music contributions to original film soundtracks.

When not recording or producing music, Mery loves to immerse himself in all things film, including going to the theaters, filming documentaries, writing screenplays, acting and directing. Mery currently lives in San Antonio, TX, where he continues to write, record and perform his own music.

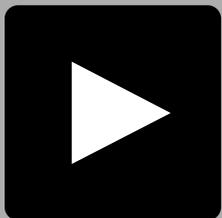
PROJECTS



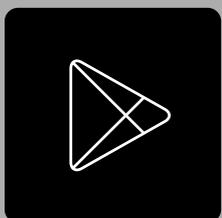
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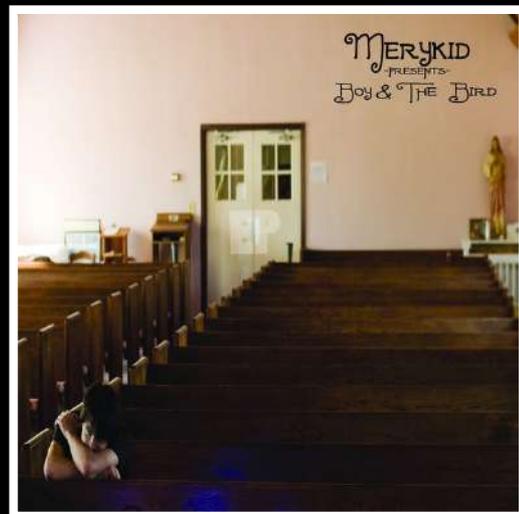
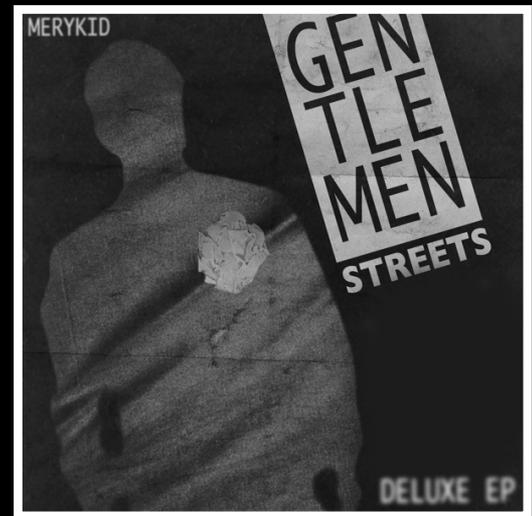
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Singer-Songwriter Merykid Predicted the Present on 'Exit Music'



Merykid's sound isn't easy to pinpoint. The singer, songwriter, and producer born Nick Mery is completely independent – everything released is self-produced – and, in realizing his artistic freedom, blends electronic and alternative elements with hip-hop.

Further breaking assumptions, he has toured and performed with jam bands and folk acts yet has also been an opener for such artists as Blue October, Logic, the Deftones, and Doja Cat.

THE BARE MAGAZINE



Bare: Have you discovered a new or new found appreciation for anything that is helping you cope?

Merykid: A schedule! At a certain point in quarantine, when you're eating 6 meals a day and experiencing sleep through chunks of hour-long naps, you start to feel that time has no meaning. Thankfully, it just takes a little bit of self-control, but things definitely got weird for a few days.

<https://www.thebaremagazine.com/home/quarantine-diary-merykid>



Exclusive Interview: Pop-Culturalist Chats with Merykid



P-C: How did you discover your passion for music?

Merykid: I grew up in a Middle Eastern community singing songs at church and at family parties. It definitely cemented a foundation for music in my life.

P-C: Who or what has had the biggest influence on your career?

Merykid: A general list of my great musical loves: Bob Dylan, Sufjan Stevens, Kanye West, James Blake, and Neon Indian.

Jul 6 Staying Alive in 2020 is the New American Dream: Hanging out with musician and lyricist Merykid



With the release of his new album *Exit Music*, musician and songwriter Merykid has made waves in the industry with his heartfelt lyrics and storytelling through song. Growing up in a Lebanese community and singing Arabic hymns in church, the artist bought his first acoustic guitar at the age of fifteen and that was all it took; he was hooked. Now, today, he's writing songs through the pandemic and releasing new music regularly to inspire fans around the world. His most recent collection revolves around his experiences with chronic illness, namely autoimmune disease, and shows those of us listening how he sees and experiences the world.

Merykid to release new EP

San Antonio-based indie pop artist Merykid is set to release his new EP "Boy and The Bird" on June 30, 2009 following with a live album release entitled "Merykid: Live at The Magic Attic." "Boy and The Bird" will be available on iTunes but the live album will be available for free download online.

In regard to both his first EP and upcoming live album's free availability to download, Merykid shares, "With home recording studios and the newfound accessibility to music via the internet, I believe there is no greater exposure than showing you care enough about your prospective audience to give them as much as they want. I hope to be the Lil Wayne of folk music."

"Boy & The Bird" was produced, mixed and engineered by Jaime Radar. In contrast to the first EP that was written entirely acoustically and recorded by himself in a closet, this follow up EP was recorded in a haunted church, with a live drummer and string section, and the sound was greatly intensified. The object was for Merykid to experiment as much as possible with different instruments and tempo changes, while still keeping melodies and grooves a priority. Staying in line with Merykid's sound, "Boy and The Bird" is an experimental pop album.



<https://killyourstereo.com/news/968423/merykid-to-release-new-ep/>

VENTS

Can you talk to us more about your latest single "Awake Pt. 2"?
"Awake Part 2" is the second half of a journey through a night of no sleep – the restless, too-quiet moments during a night that won't end. These are the moments when you have no other distractions from really seeing yourself...Your insecurities, flaws, and things you can't control. The phrase repeated over and over – Sometimes I wake up and you're not here – is a reflection on how little control we have over certain things in our lives, and how hard it is to wake up when you feel trapped and helpless.

Did any event in particular inspire you to write this song?
Last year I was dealing with an autoimmune disease that kept me from being able to really live a full life for most of the year. Losing control over your body, experimenting with different medications (and effects), and feeling like the world is moving on without you – all of it led to me turning to music as a form of escapism. The song is one part of the story I tell in the album.

Any plans to release any sort of video for the track?
There are a lot of different ideas for video accompaniment, however, right now I'm "situationally challenged" by the isolation orders in effect, and making sure a crew would be kept safe. It's just a challenge to get more creative!

The single comes off your new album Exit Music – what's the story behind the title?
Exit Music was written about what I thought was the end of a way of life I used to know – one where I had my health and still had options for what I thought was the "American Dream," so to speak.

How was the recording and writing process?
The writing process was challenging at times – most of the writing came during times of anxiety or panic-attacks. I turned to writing to bring me back down to Earth when I would feel myself spinning out mentally. The recording process, on the other hand, was wonderful. The engineer – Damian Rodriguez – and I spent a lot of time carefully discussing the intention behind all of the music, the vocals, and the sound. It was a great way to create.

What role does Texas play in your music?
Texas is my home. I will always feel safe, relaxed, and supported here emotionally and

mentally. It feels good to create in a comfortable place like your hometown (for me, San Antonio). But Texas is also just one place – I've traveled a lot, been to different countries, lived in different states. So, I don't think I'm a product of just Texas, but it's definitely my safe place.

From my understanding you wrote this album while being ill – so I am guessing this was a rather different experience?
It was more-so different because, as of 2014, I had quit music. I no longer felt a connection to the art form and moved on to different avenues of creative expression. So, making this album actually called for the entire process of coming back around to music, embracing the growth I had experienced over the last six years, and then pushing through my discomfort in order to make honest work.

How did your condition at the moment get to influence the writing on this record?
It was 100% of the inspiration and cause of creating the album. I wrote the album to document the pain and challenge of living life during a time of illness and isolation.

Talking about perfect timing, how do you feel about the weird connection between the album and our current weird situation?
It's a bit bigger than I know how to explain. At the very least, I feel like I was mentally prepared to deal with it this time around. Health and Social Isolation are two very heavy subjects, and the effects should not be taken lightly.

Where else did you find the inspiration for the songs and lyrics?
Aside from my own personal struggle with health, I did write one song called Madeline Wise that was a deep dive into a scene from the HBO show "Crashing" in between waiting for results from doctors about a series of tests. I was bingeing tv shows deeply and "Crashing" ended up being one that I connected to the most.

Any plans to hit the road?
I imagine one day, when the world returns to a place of normalcy, I might think about hitting the road. For now, I am content to wait and see how the world continues to change and grow from our current situation.

What else is happening next in Merykid's world?
Perfecting the peanut butter cookie. My greatest challenge.



https://issuu.com/hopewhenmag/docs/107th_issue/26

PRESS



In Studio: Merykid

Nick doesn't currently play with a regular group. In the studio, he brought Mike Gomez as his drummer and longtime friend Jimmy Dasher on guitar. Both Mike and Jimmy are themselves very accomplished musicians and producers. "In San Antonio, we're a family," explained Jimmy, "for better or worse, and Nick has just trusted that. He allows people to bring in their own flavors to his music. He's guided by his own north star, but he allows people to come along on that journey with him."

Nick went through a slew of genres on his journey as a musician starting from his days as a student at Central Catholic High School. "Jimmy and I were in a three piece instrumental band [in high school] and we used to idolize these bands like Lettuce and Soul Live-- bands that would go up on stage and play fifteen minute songs at a time. They would jam for eight hours. [We played] the type of music that just doesn't exist anymore." He reminisced with us about his days as a for-hire bass player that worked with nine-piece bands on 6th Street in Austin. "Most of them were just hitting these despondent notes that didn't really fit all the time." Mery spent six years on the road traveling all over Texas before he decided to settle down and begin writing his own songs. He learned how to play guitar and the real story began.



<https://www.tpr.org/post/studio-merykid>



The Music Beat: Raccoon heads for Twilight Zone

"I've always been a big fan of literature, of stories," Mery said. "So I decided to put together a concept album about a man who's fed up with society and decides to go into space. The songs follow his psyche. I was inspired by TV shows like the original The Twilight Zone where weird things could happen, like three guys landing on a strange planet, and no explanations were necessary. They were there, and they dealt with it."

Merykid will celebrate the release of The Raccoon Wednesday night at Casbeers at the Church. With an assist from DJ Kirby, Mery hopes to make this the first 3-D CD release in San Antonio history. The bill will include Marcus Rubio and the Gospel Choir of Pillows and the FreeFlow. Musicians from both groups worked on The Raccoon. Musicians from both groups will accompany Mery. Doors open at 8 p.m. Cover charge for the all-ages show is \$10.



<https://www.mysanantonio.com/entertainment/music-stage/article/Raccoon-heads-for-Twilight-Zone-913161.php>

in·de·pend·ent claus·es n. —unusual words about underappreciated music



Merykid's concept album 'The Raccoon' pays off

The album as a piece of art has a long and twisty history. From long-form classical pieces with movements (which could be considered analogous to songs) to musicals in the first half of the twentieth century to proggy concept albums in the '70s and now, there has always been some idea that individual pieces of music can compose a greater whole. *Merykid's The Raccoon* brought up these thoughts of history, as the album can't be considered as anything but an album.

There are few to no verse/chorus/verse structures here. This is not an album surrounding a single; there is no single. This is an album for the sake of an album. The music only enhances this, as it is a mishmash of synth-driven downtempo/trip-hop, glitchy electronic beats, found sounds and acoustic guitar work.

Furthermore, it starts out with a stressful spoken word drama underscored by acoustic guitar, strings, a few electronics and the found sound of a train station. The boy is leaving the girl and getting on the train. The girl is dramatically hurt. The boy leaves anyway, making her promise that she won't wait for him.

That's the setup for the rest of the album. Yes, this an ambitious album.

Does it succeed? It's very coherent musical piece of work, even with the mix of acoustic and electronic songs. There's a solid balance of emotions and space to let them happen; Merykid never tries to pack too much into a song. His vocals are solid and interesting throughout, especially shining on the good-use-of-autotune "Two Wrongs." The album flows excellently, as he knows how to use interludes and instrumental pieces to enhance the album's atmosphere.

<https://independentclauses.com/merykids-concept-album-the-raccoon-pays-off/>



21 QUESTIONS WITH MERYKID

<http://thenervousbreakdown.com/merykid/2010/12/21-questions->



NICK MERY ANNOUNCES DUAL ALBUM RELEASE - "GENTLEMEN STREETS" & "THE BLUE DOG EP"

<https://top40-charts.com/news.php?nid=88680&cat=>

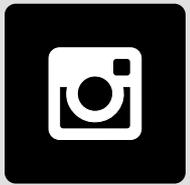
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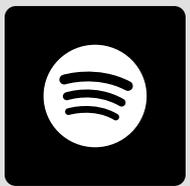
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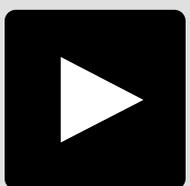
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